	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/626,097	TAYSOM, PAUL JAMES
	Examiner	Art Unit
	CHEYNE D. LY	2168

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *April 26, 2010*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *17-21, 23, 26, 28, 32, 44-46, 54, 60-62, 68-70, 73, 75, 77, and 78 (renumbered as 1-23)*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the
            International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
        Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
    Paper No./Mail Date 8/07/2008

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
    of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
    Paper No./Mail Date *6/17/2010* .

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

/Cheyne D Ly/
Examiner, Art Unit 2168

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

2.   Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Justin Wagner on June 17, 2010.

3.   Claims 17-21, 23, 26, 28, 32, 44-46, 54, 60-62, 68-70, 73, 75, 77, and 78 (renumbered as

1-23).

The application has been amended as follows:

4.   **REPLACE** Claim 17 with claim 17 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross

marked) set forth below:

17. A computer-implemented method comprising:

selecting a file comprising a list of associated contract objects;

selecting a collection comprising a list of associated contract objects;

determining a relationship between the file and the collection;

creating a contract object to represent the relationship between the file and the collection, the

contract object comprising a contract object identifier, locator for the file, metadata for the file, a

locator for the collection, and a rule table;

storing the contract object identifier in the lists of associated contract objects, wherein the file

and the collection utilize the contract object identifier to locate the contract object;

storing within a transaction log a first entry and a second entry, the first entry representing

creation of the contract object and the second entry representing a user request for the creation;

determining a first event that can occur to the file;

associating a first rule with the contract object, the first rule including the first event and a first

action;

storing the first rule in the rule table;

receiving the first event occurring to the file;

locating the contract object to assess the rule table for the first rule associated with the contract

object; and

updating at least one of the contract object, the file, and the collection according to the first rule

as determined by the first action responsive to the first event, wherein the contract object is

created and used without participation by a user, the file, or the collection.

5.   **REPLACE** Claim 18 with claim 18 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross

marked) set forth below:

18. A computer-implemented method according to claim 17, wherein:

selecting the file includes identifying a plurality of files;

determining the relationship includes determining a plurality of relationships between each of the

files and the collection; and

creating the contract object includes creating a plurality of contract objects to represent the

plurality of relationships between the plurality of files and the collection.

6.   **REPLACE** Claim 20 with claim 20 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross

marked) set forth below:

20. A computer-implemented method according to claim 17, wherein:

selecting the file includes identifying a plurality of files;

selecting the collection includes identifying a plurality of collections;

determining a relationship includes determining a plurality of relationships between the plurality

of files and the plurality of collections; and

creating the contract object includes creating a plurality of contract objects to represent the

plurality of relationships between the plurality of files and the plurality of collections.

7.   **REPLACE** Claim 44 with claim 44 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross

marked) set forth below:

44. Computer-readable media storing a program executed by a processor, the program

comprising:

software selecting a file comprising a list of associated contract objects;

software selecting a collection comprising a list of associated contract objects;

software determining a relationship between the file and the collection;

software creating a contract object to represent the relationship between the file and the

collection, the contract object comprising a contract object identifier, locator for the file,

metadata for the file, a locator for the collection, and a rule table;

software storing the contract object identifier in the lists of associated contract objects, wherein

the file and the collection utilize the contract object identifier to locate the contract object;

software storing within a transaction log a first entry and a second entry, the first entry

representing creation of the contract object and the second entry representing a user request for

the creation;

software determining a first event that can occur to the file;

software associating a first rule with the contract object, the first rule including the first event

and a first action software storing a first rule in the rule table;

software receiving the first event occurring to the file;

software locating the contract object to access the rule table for the first rule associated with the

contract object; and

software updating at least one of the contract object, the file, and the collection according to the

first rule as determined by the first action responsive to the first event, wherein the contract

object is created and used without participation by a user, the file, or the collection.

8.   **REPLACE** Claim 73 with claim 73 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross

marked) set forth below:

73. A computer-implemented method according to claim 14, further comprising removing the

first entry from the transaction log after the contract object is created.

9.   **REPLACE** Claim 75 with claim 75 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross

marked) set forth below:

75. Computer-readable media according to claim 44, further comprising software removing the

first entry from the transaction log after the contract object is created.

10.   **REPLACE** Claim 78 with claim 78 amended by examiner (without underlined and cross

marked) set forth below:

78. Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein the software determining includes

software determining the relationship between the file and the collection, the relationship

between the file and the collection having been established without the participation of the first

file and the collection.

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention individually or in

combination the limitation of creating a contract object to represent the relationship between the

file and the collection, the contract object comprising a contract object identifier, locator for the

file, metadata for the file, a locator for the collection, and a rule table; storing the contract object

identifier in the lists of associated contract objects, wherein the file and the collection utilize the

contract object identifier to locate the contract object; storing within a transaction log a first entry

and a second entry, the first entry representing creation of the contract object and the second

entry representing a user request for the creation; determining a first event that can occur to the

file; associating a first rule with the contract object, the first rule including the first event and a

first action; storing the first rule in the rule table; receiving the first event occurring to the file;

locating the contract object to assess the rule table for the first rule associated with the contract

object; and updating at least one of the contract object, the file, and the collection according to

the first rule as determined by the first action responsive to the first event, wherein the contract

object is created and used without participation by a user, the file, or the collection as set forth in

claims 1 and 44.

11.   The closest prior art, Becka et al., discloses providing a mechanism that improves

operational efficiency through process automation. The process automation is enabled through

rules that can be bound to system objects such as contract objects. However, the prior art does

not teach or suggest the limitations cited above as being free of any prior art when read in the

claims as a whole.

CONCLUSION

12.   Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be

viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the

USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are

available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is

(866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of

document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of

the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of

the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the

problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete

service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system

provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also

enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as

general patent information available to the public.

13.   For all other customer support, please call the USPTO Call Center (UCC) at 800-786-

9199. The USPTO's official fax number is 571-272-8300.

14.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to C. Dune Ly, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0716. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.

15.   If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Tim Vo, can be reached on (571) 272-3642.

/Cheyne D Ly/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2168